

Norfolk Reentry Council Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2015
Workforce Development Center
9:00 a.m.

Welcome:

Kathy Hall extended greetings to members and guests present. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Planning Committee Update:

Kathy Hall gave an update on the Housing & Wellness Town Hall meeting. There were 107 in attendance. Gave an overview of the upcoming 2nd Annual Community Collaborations Reentry Summit @ ODU Ted Constant Center on 10/26/15.

Presentation:

Elaina Dariah gave an overview of Virginia 2-1-1. She gave the history of Information and Referral system. All states have a 2-1-1 Community Resources system. They have a database of over 10,000 resources available 24 hours, seven days a week, service by phone (2-1-1, (757) 625-4543, 1-800-230-6977 fax, email, regular mail, or walk-in. They are part of the Planning Council. Questions were addressed by Ms. Dariah.

Program Updates:

- **DHS Programs-**Madonna Flores gave an update on programs offered at NDHS. The state of Virginia was approved for federal grant to pilot a SNAP Employment & Training (ET) Program with VDSS and local community colleges. Tidewater Community College and Thomas Nelson Community Colleges will be participating for the Tidewater area. The pilot will enhance employment & training opportunities for the target population ABAWDS (Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents). The community colleges will provide GED, job skills training, and job readiness training. The pilot will start in December 2015. NDHS continues to provide Safe Haven PEER Support (co-ed) and the women's PEER Support (W.E.L.L.) in which all returning citizens are welcomed. T4C is now being facilitated at Norfolk City Jail by Norfolk Dept. of Human Services and Norfolk Probation & Parole on Mondays & Thursdays from 2--4 p.m. Current group began in August 2015 and will end in November 2015.

Updates:

- **St. Brides-** Joshua Coleman stated there will be a Practical Interviewing Event on 12/2/15 at 9am. Mr. Walton gave an update about the Corrective Education Foundation. 140 scholarships have been provided to children of incarcerated parents. Pilot program Inside/Outside Dad (3 classes have graduated). Derek Beamon ex-offender directs plays at Willet Hall.
- **Greensville-** Ms. Bridges stated that Virginia State University helps enroll inmates in the community college in the Petersburg area (total of 120) by assisting with filling out their FSA applications. Ready to Work is going well.

- **Sussex I & II-** Principal Timothy Donley provided an update on GED testing. 52 offenders will graduate with GED. Also they will be offering first college credit classes and can apply for PELL grant.
- **Newport News Sherriff Office-** Ms. Peggy Howard invited everyone to the Peninsula Reentry Summit 9/24/15 8:30am-2:30pm. They will have two work sessions, Human Trafficking and Evidence-Based Decision Making.
- **Probation & Parole-** Kathy Hall announced that Ebony Sessoms was promoted to Senior Probation & Parole Officer. Family Reunification Seminars will be held on 9/29/15 & 11/17/15. She provided the number of participates in the following: T4C-16, Veteran Drug Court-5, Drug Court-45, Reentry Court-18, and Mental Health Court-37.
- **Up Center-** The Responsible Father training is on hold. They have applied for a new grant (9 months training)
- **Norfolk Circuit Court Reentry Docket** – Drug Court/Reentry Court Coordinator, Marla Newby advised that they are hosting a H.E.A.T. Overview Training on 9/25/15 WDC from 9am-5pm.
- **VEC** - Diane Murray VEC /Veterans Rep. introduced her intern Simone.

Workgroups:

- **Employment-** Michael Paris gave an update on the Employment & Training Town Hall meeting. The 2nd Hampton Roads Equal Opportunity Job Fair was attended by 360 participants, 30 employers, 140 paper applications were done online. The next meeting is 9/15/15 at 9am at WDC.
- **Faith Based & Community Initiatives-** Madonna Flores stated they will be giving a small presentation at the Norfolk Jail Ministry Banquet on 10/30/15. Their committee is working on a resource book containing information about resources available through churches in the Norfolk. They meet the third Monday of the each month. The next meeting is 10/19/15 at WDC.
- **Juvenile Reentry-** Madonna Flores gave an update on their activities. They had two meetings which was attended by 29 people both times. They want to increase parental involvement and will be conducting focus groups with parents of at-risk youth. They will attend Open Houses at local schools in September which are Rosemont Middle and Norview Middle. They meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 9am. The next meeting is 10/13/15 at 9am at Gethsemane Community Fellowship Baptist Church.

The next Reentry Council meeting is Friday 11/20/15 at 9am at WDC.

Meeting Adjourned at 11 a.m.

Sheila London